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ABSTRACT

In June 1990, a statewide telephone survey was conducted of 1,200 full- and part-time students from the 29 Michigan community colleges as a follow-up to a similar survey conducted in 1988. As in the previous study, the 29 colleges were classified as rural, urban, and suburban institutions and a total of 200 part-time and 200 full-time students were contacted from each group. Study findings included the following: (1) 79% of part-time and 67% of full-time students stated that their primary reason for attending college was to improve their job prospects; (2) 91% of respondents felt they were getting their money's worth from community college while 95% said they would recommend a community college to a friend; (3) the percentage of students who had first applied to a four-year college dropped since the initial survey from 46% to 21% while those seeking an Associates degree dropped from 65% to 55%; (4) among reasons given for attending a community college, 42% sought university credit, 30% were preparing for a new job, and 15% were seeking to improve existing job skills; (5) 71% of respondents stated that they planned to re-enroll at the college in a subsequent semester, from 67% in 1988; (6) 65% of respondents indicated that they were performing better academically than they had in high school; (7) 58% of students said that the cost of tuition at the community college was very reasonable but 68% considered the cost of books to be unreasonable; and (8) both full-time and part-time students gave full- and part-time faculty high praise. Data tables and the survey instrument are included. (GFW)

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One of a Series
of Public Opinion Surveys
Conducted by

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**OPINIONS AND ATTITUDES
OF STATEWIDE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS
JUNE 1990**

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OPINIONS AND ATTITUDES
OF STATEWIDE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

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2nd Biennial
Community College Student Survey

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Conducted by
Project Outreach
Michigan State Board of Education
June 4-7, 11-14, 1990



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All figures shown in this report are in percentages, rounded to the nearest percentage. When columns do not total 100%, it is due to rounding. When responses greatly exceed 100%, it is due to multiple responses.

METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

The second statewide telephone opinion survey of community college students was conducted by Project Outreach during June 4-7 and 11-14, 1990. This study was a follow-up to the initial statewide survey of community college students, conducted in June of 1988.

This survey included the opinions of both full-time and part-time community college students to get a user viewpoint of the services provided by the state's system of community colleges. Such a biennial survey was originally suggested by the State Board for Public Community and Junior Colleges and had the endorsement of the Michigan Community College Association.

Ned S. Hubbell, Director of Project Outreach, suggested a sampling framework that divided the 29 community colleges into three major clusters: urban (8), suburban (7), and regional (14).

Urban community colleges included:

C.S. Mott
Delta
Grand Rapids
Henry Ford
Highland Park
Kalamazoo
Lansing
Wayne

Suburban community colleges included:

Jackson
Kellogg
Macomb
Oakland
St. Clair
Schoolcraft
Washtenaw

The regional community colleges included the following:

Alpena
Bay de Noc
Glen Oaks
Gogebic
Kirtland
Lake Michigan
Mid-Michigan
Monroe
Muskegon
North Central
Northwestern
Montcalm
Southwestern
West Shore

Two separate sub-groups within each of the three clusters were accomplished, i.e., 200 full-time students and 200 part-time students in each of the three clusters. Respondents were selected by each of the colleges following the directions described by Project Outreach, and those chosen were drawn by systematic random sampling.

Sampling was based upon a 95% confidence factor with the following sampling error:

<u>Respondent Group</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Sampling Error %</u>
All student respondents	1,200	3%
Full-time students	600	4
Part-time students	600	4
Urban/suburban/rural	400 (ea)	4.9

Most interviewing was accomplished between the hours of 5:30 and 9:30 p.m., although some daytime interviews were conducted by call-back appointments. Average length of the interview was 20 minutes.

The project could not have been successfully accomplished without the cooperation and assistance of each of the state's 29 community colleges. Each college drew the random sampling in accordance with appropriate sampling procedures and provided the respondent information in time for the project to be completed. Much credit for the project's completion should go to James Folkening, Community College Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education. Sampling design was assisted by Dr. Sharif Shakrani and the project was under the direction of Ned S. Hubbell, APR.

1990

2nd Biennial Community College
Student Survey

Summary of the Findings

Today's community college student is very pragmatic. They are getting a college education for one major reason -- to get a good job or advance in their present job. That was the response of nearly three out of four students (73%). It is mentioned more frequently by part-time students (79%) than full-time students (67%) but it is the dominant reason given by both.

And this second biennial community college survey reaffirmed the previous strong opinion of these students, first stated in 1988, when nine out of every ten students (91%) said they feel they are getting their money's worth at the community college.

In response to a pair of new questions, suggested this year by some community college students, almost all of the students (93%) said, if they had it to do all over again, they would still enroll in a community college.

That testimonial was exceeded only by responses to a follow-up question, "Would you recommend a community college to a friend?" And 95% said they certainly would.

This year's community college student was less likely to first apply to a four-year college. Only one-fifth (21%) said they did that, down significantly from the 46% who did it two years ago. Those who made application to a four-year college are more likely now to be a full-time (25%) community college student than a part-time student (18%), to be enrolled in a suburban community college or attending full-time in an urban community college.

Those who had intended to attend a four-year college ended up in community college for one of two major reasons -- it is less costly (40% said that) and/or it is closer to their home (37%). A new reason emerged when 14% said they chose a community college in order to first improve their grades. Still, the vast majority of community college students (78%) did not apply first to a four-year college.

Community college students have one of two major goals -- either to obtain university credit (42%) or get prepared either for a job they hope to get (30%) or to improve their existing job skills (15%).

The majority of students (55%) hope to get an Associate degree, but that hope is not as high as it was in 1988 when 65% said that was their goal. In fact, the majority (53%) of community college students said they hope to get a bachelor's degree and one-fifth (20%) said they hope to go beyond that and get a master's degree.

The field of business is still the most popular academic program for community college students and one-fifth (22%) are enrolled in that type of program, but that is down somewhat from two years ago when 31% were enrolled in business.

Another one-third of the students are enrolled in one of several liberal arts programs, with a wide scattering of major fields of study report. For example, one in ten students is an education major this year. Another one in ten students (11%) is enrolled in a technical or occupational skill program and the field of allied health or nursing enrolls about 12% of the students.

The holding power of the community colleges is demonstrated by the fact that seven out of every ten students (71%) plan to enroll at their community college again next term. That is up significantly from the 67% intention expressed two years ago. Those most likely to return are full-time students (78%) rather than part-time students (65%). Six out of every ten students (60%) also said they plan on ultimately transferring to a four-year college. Transfer intentions are higher (70%) than part-time students (51%).

Two years ago community college students named four factors as being most important when it came to selecting a college. Those same four factors are still the most important. They are:

- * Location of the college (70% said "very important");
- * Availability of a particular program of study (67% said "very important");
- * Cost of attending the college (59% said "very important");
- * Wide variety of courses offered (58% said "very important").

And those four factors are the most important both for full-time students and part-time students.

Of lesser importance to students:

- * Opportunity for student leadership (64% said "not important");
- * Size of the college (60% said "not important");
- * Entrance requirements (42% said "not important"), and
- * Student completion rate (42% said "not important").

The majority of students (54%) said the Associate degree is very important in their eyes. When asked what is so important about an Associate degree?, almost four out of ten students (37%) said, "It shows that you can complete a goal." But the second, more pragmatic response named by 20% was, "It's easier -- does not take as long as a four-year degree."

In this survey students placed a great deal of importance on the GPA (Grade Point Average) while in college. Forty percent (40%) said they needed a high GPA because, "Employers look for that" or, "You need it to get the job".

Two-thirds of today's community college students (65%) said they are doing better, academically, than they did when they were in high school. Self-reported grade averages this year are about the same as those reported two years ago. Nearly one-third (32%) have an A average, 56% report a B average, one in ten (10%) have a C average and only 1% said they are averaging below C.

A younger community college student said, "Community college is just an extension of the high school". The vast majority of present community college students (74%) disagree with that while only 20% agreed. That opinion is more likely to be found among younger, full-time students (24%) than among part-time students (only 15% agreed).

The vast majority of these students (82%) say they are very comfortable being in classes with people who are either a lot older or a lot younger than they are. Only 2% expressed some discomfort with this cross-age mix while 1% said they are very uncomfortable.

Nearly three out of five community college students (58%) say the cost of tuition at the community college is very reasonable. Only 4% said they felt such tuition cost was unreasonable. That is similar to the 3% who objected to tuition costs two years ago.

Tuition costs cover only about 30% of the cost of educating a student in a community college, but the average student does not know that. While one-fourth (26%) admit they have no idea, 16% believe their tuition covers their entire costs and another one-third (35%) believe it covers "most of the costs". Another 17% think tuition covers about one-half of the cost and only 6% believe tuition covers less than one-half of the costs. The wide variety of opinions clearly indicates the typical student has no idea of the tuition/cost ratio.

When students were asked about the reasonableness of the different fees that are charged by community colleges, very, very few expressed any dissatisfaction. The great majority said registration fees, lab fees, and activity fees are all seen as fairly reasonable.

But students loudly protested the cost of college textbooks. Almost seven out of ten students (68%) said they felt the cost of books was unreasonable. In fact, only 5% said they felt the cost of books was reasonable.

The "guarantee" -- that college courses will transfer or that the student will be properly trained for the workplace is still very important to 71% of the current community college students.

The majority of students rated 13 out of 17 services provided by the college as "good" or "excellent". Highest ratings went to library services and campus safety. Better than six out of ten students rated very highly their bookstore, handicapped access, computer labs and facilities, course selection advisement, new student orientation and availability of study rooms or areas. "Poor" ratings for any services were minimal, with the exception of parking availability, where one-fourth of the students (23%) rated it as poor. Highest criticism of that came from urban community college students.

Students again repeated what they said two years ago -- the level of instruction is about what they expected, and again both full-time and part-time students gave both full-time and part-time faculty high praise.

* * *

This survey was conducted by telephone between June 4-7 and 11-14, and included opinions of 1,200 students, one-half of which were full-time and one-half part-time. The sampling framework involved proportionate sampling from both types of students in eight (8) urban community colleges, seven (7) suburban colleges and 14 regional community colleges. Thus, all 29 community colleges were included. Total sample confidence is 95% and sampling error does not exceed 3%.

The study was conducted for the Community Colleges Services Unit of the Department of Education by Project Outreach, the opinion research arm of the State Board of Education.

Persons desiring a complete report of the entire study are asked to call 517/373-3360.

IMPORTANCE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

Today's community college student is very pragmatic. They are getting a college education for one major reason -- to get a good job or to advance in their present job.

That was the dominant response of nearly three-fourths (73%) of the current students and mentioned more frequently (79%) by full-time students than by part-time students (67%).

It is the major goal of 76% of the students who are enrolled in an urban community college.

Other reasons given for a college education include the perceived need to learn a specialized skill so they can enter a specialized job market (10%).

More aesthetic reasons include the belief that a college education "helps you to be self-supporting and independent" (9%), "gives you a personal challenge or satisfaction" (8%), "to gain knowledge" (4%), "helps you to better understand others" (4%), "so they can become a well-rounded person" (2%) and for other reasons (1%).

"What is so important, anyway, about a college education?"

	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
To get a good job/ advancement	73%	67%	79%	76%	72%	71%
To learn a specialized skill/enter a special- ized job market	10	5	14	10	10	9
Helps you to be self- supporting/independent	9	15	3	7	10	10
Personal challenge/ satisfaction	8	13	3	7	7	10
To gain knowledge	4	5	3	4	5	3
Helps you to understand others	4	2	6	5	2	5
To become a well-rounded person	2	4	1	3	2	3
Miscellaneous reasons	1	1	1	1	1	2
Can't say	3	4	3	3	3	4

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

REASONS FOR SELECTING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Two years ago, nearly one-half (46%) of the community college students said they first applied to a four-year college. This year's community college student is less likely to do that. Only one-fifth (21%) said they first applied to a four-year college.

Those who made application to a four-year college are more likely to be a full-time student (25%) than a part-time (18%) community college student, to be enrolled now in a suburban community college or attending full-time in an urban community college, or to include those students who do intend to transfer later to a four-year school.

"Did you first apply to a 4-year college?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(46%)	21%	18%	25%	21%	25%	18%
No	(53)	78	82	75	79	75	82
Can't say	(1)	-	-	-	1	-	-

Community college students who had intended to attend a four-year college opted, instead, for the community college for one of two main reasons -- the community college is less costly (40%) and it is close to their home (37%).

Another reason, not mentioned by similar students two years ago, was their need "to improve my grades", mentioned by 14% of those students who had hoped to attend a four-year college.

Other reasons for selecting a community college instead are shown in the Table below:

"(IF "YES") Why did you select a community college (instead)?"

	(46% of '88 State)*	21% of All Resp.*	18% of Part Time*	25% of Full Time*	21% of Urb.*	25% of Sub.*	18% of Reg.*
Cheaper/less costly	(39%)	40%	34%	44%	42%	41%	35%
Closer to home	(51)	37	38	36	22	40	51
Need to improve my grades	(--)	14	10	16	16	14	10
Have a better program	(16)	8	11	6	9	6	10
To get ready for a 4-yr. college	(5)	7	8	7	7	9	6
More personalized	(7)	5	7	4	5	6	6
Have the program/ classes I wanted	(--)	1	2	1	2	1	1
Close to my job	(7)	4	6	3	2	4	6
Friend/relative goes there	(2)	2	2	1	1	1	3
Miscellaneous reasons	(1)	5	3	7	7	4	4
Can't say	(1)	3	4	2	2	1	6

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

The vast majority of community college students, over three-fourths of them, (78%), did not apply first to a four-year college.

And the majority of these students (58%) chose the community college chiefly because it was closer to their home. That is especially true for students attending a more rural area, regional community (70%), rather than an urban (47%) or suburban (58%) community college. And it is especially true for part-time students, the majority of whom are employed full time locally and not able to leave their area to attend a four-year school.

Cost was another important factor, said 31% of these students who did not apply to a four-year college.

"(IF "NO") Why did you choose a community college?"

	78% of All Resp.*	82% of Part Time*	75% of Full Time*	79% of Urb.*	75% of Sub.*	82% of Reg.*
Closer to home	58%	61%	56%	47%	58%	70%
Cheaper/less costly	31	27	36	34	32	27
Had desired program/ classes	12	13	10	12	12	11
To get ready for a 4-year school	10	7	13	9	14	7
Close to my job	6	9	3	5	6	6
It's more personal	4	4	3	4	3	5
To help me mature	4	2	6	5	6	2
Provides a good education	2	2	2	2	3	1
Had a scholarship/ employer pays	2	2	2	2	2	2
Could enroll with lower grades from high school	2	1	4	3	3	1
To help me be more independent	1	1	2	2	1	2
Miscellaneous reasons	2	3	1	2	1	2
Can't say	1	1	2	2	1	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL GOAL

Community college students appear to have one of two major goals -- either to obtain university transfer credit (42%) or to get prepared either for a job they hope to get (30%) or to improve their existing job skills (15%). The slight majority (51%) of full-time students have their sights set on transferring to a four-year college while the part-time student is more job oriented.

One in ten students (12%) said their primary educational goal was to obtain the Associate degree.

"What's your purpose -- that is, your primary educational goal in attending this college?"

	('88 State)*	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
University transfer credit	(31%)	42%	33%	51%	42%	45%	39%
Preparation for a job I hope to get	(28)	30	27	33	25	29	36
Improvement of existing job skills	(21)	15	23	7	16	13	15
To get an Associate degree	(13)	12	11	12	16	10	9
Personal interest	(9)	8	13	4	10	9	6
To get a degree, certificate	(--)	3	4	2	3	3	3
Can't say	(3)	1	1	1	1	2	1

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

Preference for that two-year Associate degree is expected by the majority of students (55%), especially those attending on a full-time basis (58%). But that accomplishment is not as dominant as it was two years ago, in the 1988 statewide survey of community college students, when 65% said they hoped to get an Associate degree.

"How do you expect to accomplish this goal? What type of requirements are involved?"

	('88 State)*	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Associate degree	(65%)	55%	51%	58%	53%	52%	59%
University/college transfer	(--)	26	19	34	29	28	22
Selected course(s) only	(25)	16	22	10	15	16	16
Complete apprenticeship requirements	(3)	4	7	2	4	3	6
Certificate -- two year	(5)	4	3	5	4	3	5
Certificate -- one year	(2)	2	1	3	3	2	2
Certificate -- less than 1 year	(--)	1	1	-	1	1	1
Can't say	(4)	2	4	1	2	3	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY

The field of business is still the most popular program for community college students, where one-fifth of the students (22%) are enrolled, down somewhat from the 31% of two years ago.

Another one-third of the students are enrolled in one of several liberal arts programs, with a wide scattering of major fields of study reported. One in ten students (9%) is an education major, for example.

The most popular occupational field other than business is the field of allied health or nursing, where 12% of the students are enrolled.

Another one in ten students (11%) is enrolled in a program of technical or skilled trades.

"In what type of program are you enrolled?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Business	(31%)	22%	23%	20%	20%	24%	22%
Allied Health/Nursing	(15)	12	11	13	14	9	14
Technical/Skilled Trades	(15)	11	12	9	13	12	8
Education	(--)	9	8	9	7	8	11
Engineering	(--)	5	6	5	4	6	6
General/basic classes	(--)	5	5	5	5	4	5
Liberal Arts	(18)	5	3	7	5	8	3
Computers	(--)	4	4	4	4	4	4
Graphics (design, etc.)	(5)	4	3	5	5	3	5
Social Science	(3)	4	2	5	3	3	4
Law Enforcement	(--)	3	3	3	4	2	3
Undecided	(2)	3	3	3	3	2	3
Science	(4)	3	2	4	3	2	4
Accounting	(--)	3	2	3	1	5	3
Corrections	(--)	2	1	2	2	1	2
Political Science	(--)	1	2	1	1	1	3
Paralegal	(--)	1	2	1	1	2	2
Child Development/ Child Care	(--)	1	2	1	1	1	1
Premed	(--)	1	1	2	1	1	2
Communication Arts	(--)	1	1	2	2	2	1
Mathematics	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	2
English	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Humanities	(2)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Miscellaneous programs	(--)	4	5	3	4	5	3
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	2	2	-

The majority of students have taken the long view toward accomplishment of their goal, saying it may well take two years or a lot longer before they achieve that goal.

One-fifth (20%) expect it will take two to three years to reach their goal, while another one-fifth (21%) feel it may well take three to five years, and 7% say it will be more than five years before they are able to reach their goal.

"How long do you think it will take for you to accomplish your goal?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
One more year	18%	17%	19%	21%	19%	15%
Probably two years	17	15	19	16	18	17
Over 2 to 3 years	20	19	21	21	16	23
3 to 5 years	21	18	25	22	20	22
More than 5 years	7	8	5	5	8	8
Whatever it takes	8	10	6	6	11	7
Depends	4	6	2	5	4	4
Can't say	14 5	7	3	5	5	5

Only 13% of the students expect to complete their program of study at the completion of the current term in which they are enrolled. Another one-fourth of the students (25%) report they are about half-way through their program of study. About three out of ten students (29%) say they are less than half-way through their program of study while 25% report they are more than half-way through their course of study.

"If you are pursuing a formal program of study (like a certificate, Associate degree, or apprenticeship), what portion of it do you expect to have completed by the end of this Spring term? All, more than half, about half, or less than half?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
All	(17%)	13%	11%	15%	12%	14%	13%
More than half	(27)	25	19	30	27	24	23
About half	(21)	25	23	28	27	22	27
Less than half	(25)	29	36	23	28	31	30
Can't say	(11)	8	12	5	7	10	8

FUTURE ACADEMIC PLANS

The holding power of the community colleges is demonstrated by the fact that seven out of every ten students plan to enroll again in the next term. That 71% return-enrollment rate is up significantly from two years ago, when 67% said they would re-enroll next term.

Those most likely to return are part-time students (78%) rather than full-time students (65%), but keep in mind that 15% of the full-time students said they were in the midst of completing their program of study now. Returning part-time students show a very high intent to reenroll next term. That was evident from 80% of the part-time students in regional community colleges, 78% of the suburban college part-timers and 75% of the urban college part-timers.

Less than one-fifth of these college students (17%) said they do not plan to enroll at the same college in the future. That was expressed by one-fourth (24%) of the full-time students.

"Do you plan to enroll at this same college in the future?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, next/fall term	(67%)	71%	78%	65%	71%	68%	75%
Yes, at a later date	(9)	7	7	7	6	8	7
No	(18)	17	11	24	17	22	14
Undecided	(7)	5	5	5	6	3	5

Two years ago, the majority of community college students (58%) said they planned on transferring to a four-year college. That same high intent is reflected in this survey when 60% said they plan to transfer to a four-year school.

Transfer intentions are significantly higher (70%) among full-time students than among part-time students (51%). Three-fourths (75%) of full-time urban college students plan to transfer to a four-year college, as does 79% of full-timers in suburban community colleges but only 57% of the full-time students in regional community colleges say they plan to transfer to a four-year school.

"Do you plan to transfer to a 4-year college?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(58%)	60%	51%	70%	61%	66%	54%
No	(28)	26	32	19	26	20	31
Don't know/undecided	(15)	14	17	11	13	14	16

The majority of today's community college students plan on getting a four-year Bachelor's degree. That was expressed by 53% of the students, and is much more likely to be the goal of the full-time student (63%) rather than a part-time student (43%).

Two-thirds (63%) of the urban full-time community college students have their sights set on a bachelor's degree, as do 72% of the suburban community college students. But interest in a bachelor's degree is not as high among regional community college full-time students; only 55% hope to achieve that.

More single students (63%) hope to get a bachelor's degree than married students, where only 39% have that as their goal.

"Do you plan on getting a 4-year Bachelor's degree?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, definitely	53%	43%	63%	52%	60%	48%
Yes, hopefully	13	13	13	13	10	16
No	20	28	12	22	17	22
Can't say/undecided	14	17	11	14	14	15

Carrying educational aspirations one step farther, data reveals that one-fifth (20%) of the students in all types of community colleges definitely feel they will earn a Master's degree. That is the goal of one-fourth (26%) of the full-time community college student today, especially if he or she today is single (25%) rather than married (14%).

"Do you think you will go on and get a Master's or professional degree?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes, definitely	20%	15%	26%	22%	23%	16%
Yes, hopefully	18	14	22	16	19	19
No	37	44	30	37	36	37
Can't say/undecided	25	28	23	24	23	28

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN SELECTING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Two years ago, in 1988, community college students named four factors as being the most important when it comes to selecting a community college.

Those same factors are still the most important, according to respondents in this 1990 study:

- * Location of the college (70% said that is very important);
- * Availability of a particular program of study (67% said this is very important);
- * Cost of attending the college (59% said very important); and
- * Variety of courses offered (58% said very important).

"When you were considering attending a community college, how important were these kinds of things . . . very important, somewhat important, or not too important:

<u>LOCATION OF THE COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(72%)	70%	73%	68%	63%	72%	76%
Somewhat important	(19)	21	20	23	26	22	17
Not too important	(9)	8	7	9	11	6	7
Can't say	(--)	-	1	-	-	1	1

<u>AVAILABILITY OF A PARTICULAR PROGRAM OF STUDY</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(67%)	67%	65%	68%	68%	63%	69%
Somewhat important	(21)	23	25	22	23	24	24
Not too important	(12)	9	9	10	9	12	8
Can't say	(-)	1	1	1	1	1	-

<u>COST OF ATTENDING COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(54%)	59%	54%	64%	59%	56%	61%
Somewhat important	(25)	25	26	24	26	25	24
Not too important	(20)	16	19	12	14	18	15
Can't say	(-)	1	2	-	1	1	1

<u>VARIETY OF COURSES OFFERED</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(53%)	58%	60%	56%	60%	59%	57%
Somewhat important	(34)	32	28	36	30	32	33
Not too important	(12)	9	11	8	9	9	10
Can't say	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1

Other factors deemed somewhat important when selecting a community college included the following:

- * Academic reputation of the college (41% very important, 40% somewhat important);
- * Availability of financial aid or scholarships (37% very important; 25% somewhat important);
- * Reputation of the faculty (32% very important; 39% somewhat important);
- * Opportunities for part-time or full-time work (30% very important, 27% somewhat important);
- * Type of community where the college is located (27% very important, 39% somewhat important); and
- * Graduate job placement rate (25% very important, 29% somewhat important).

<u>ACADEMIC REPUTATION OF THE COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(45%)	41%	39%	44%	47%	39%	39%
Somewhat important	(37)	40	41	39	38	42	41
Not too important	(17)	17	18	17	14	19	20
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	1	2	1

<u>AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID OR SCHOLARSHIP</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(39%)	37%	27%	46%	39%	29%	43%
Somewhat important	(16)	25	26	24	23	25	28
Not too important	(44)	36	43	28	36	44	27
Can't say	(2)	3	3	2	3	3	2

<u>REPUTATION OF THE FACULTY</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	32%	31%	33%	35%	29%	32%
Somewhat important	39	38	40	37	37	43
Not too important	27	29	25	26	32	24
Can't say	2	3	2	3	2	2

<u>OPPORTUNITY FOR PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME WORK</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	30%	27%	33%	31%	27%	31%
Somewhat important	27	24	30	28	26	26
Not too important	42	47	36	40	44	41
Can't say	2	3	2	2	3	2

<u>TYPE OF COMMUNITY WHERE COLLEGE IS LOCATED</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(30%)	27%	27%	28%	23%	30%	28%
Somewhat important	(33)	39	37	41	45	37	35
Not too important	(37)	33	36	31	31	33	36
Can't say	(1)	1	1	-	1	1	1

<u>GRADUATE JOB PLACEMENT RATE</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	25%	16%	34%	27%	20%	29%
Somewhat important	29	29	30	32	27	30
Not too important	42	50	34	39	52	35
Can't say	4	4	3	3	2	6

Of lesser importance:

- * Student completion rate (42% not too important);
- * Entrance requirements (42% not too important);
- * Size of the college (60% not too important); and
- * Opportunity for student leadership (64% not too important).

<u>IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT COMPLETION RATE</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	22%	15%	29%	19%	20%	27%
Somewhat important	33	32	33	33	29	36
Not too important	42	48	36	46	48	33
Can't say	3	4	2	3	3	4

<u>ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	(16%)	17%	13%	21%	18%	19%	15%
Somewhat important	(30)	39	37	40	37	35	44
Not too important	(51)	42	47	37	42	44	41
Can't say	(3)	2	3	2	4	2	1

<u>SIZE OF THE COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	(11%)	11%	8%	13%	10%	11%	11%
Somewhat important	(23)	29	25	32	29	31	26
Not too important	(65)	60	65	55	61	58	62
Can't say	(1)	1	1	-	1	1	1

<u>OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	8%	6%	10%	8%	7%	8%
Somewhat important	26	23	29	29	23	26
Not, too important	64	68	60	61	68	64
Can't say	2	3	1	2	2	2

Most important factors when a part time student chooses a community college are:

- * Location of the college (73% very important);
- * Availability of a particular program of study (65% very important);
- * Cost of attending the college (54% very important); and
- * Variety of courses offered (60% very important).

And those are the same, four most important factors for the full time student.

A baker's dozen of 13 other factors were read to students but none of them were identified as being very important, although nearly one-half (44%) said the facilities available at the college were very important. These were seen as more important to full-time students (50%) rather than part-time students (38%).

"Let me ask you about some other things that may be important to a person selecting a college. How important are these kinds of things. . . very important, somewhat important, not too important. . . ."

<u>FACILITIES AVAILABLE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	(50%)	44%	38%	50%	45%	40%	46%
Somewhat important	(34)	39	39	38	37	41	37
Not too important	(15)	17	23	11	17	17	16
Can't say	(1)	1	1	-	1	2	1

Seen as somewhat important are such factors as:

- * Contact with college representatives (27% very important, 35% somewhat important);
- * Advice of someone who attended the college (26% very important, 40% somewhat important).

<u>CONTACT(S) WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	(28%)	27%	23%	31%	26%	24%	31%
Somewhat important	(31)	35	32	37	35	34	35
Not too important	(39)	37	43	32	38	40	33
Can't say	(1)	2	2	1	1	1	2

<u>ADVICE OF SOMEONE WHO ATTENDED COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	(30%)	26%	19%	33%	28%	24%	26%
Somewhat important	(38)	40	37	43	40	40	40
Not too important	(31)	33	42	25	32	35	33
Can't say	(1)	1	1	-	-	1	1

But about one-half of the students saw these factors as not too important:

- * Extracurricular activities (56% not too important).
- * Advice of high school counselors or teachers (52% not too important);
- * Advice of parents or relatives (50% not too important);
- * Health and wellness programs (50% not too important); and
- * Social climate and activities at the college (47% not too important);

<u>EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Req.</u>
Very important	(14%)	11%	7%	14%	11%	9%	12%
Somewhat important	(26)	33	28	37	33	33	32
Not too important	(59)	56	64	48	56	56	54
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	-	2	2

ADVICE OF HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS OR TEACHERS

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(19%)	16%	12%	20%	17%	15%	15%
Somewhat important	(26)	31	25	36	33	27	32
Not too important	(54)	52	62	43	51	57	50
Can't say	(1)	2	2	1	-	1	3

ADVICE OF PARENTS OR RELATIVES

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(19%)	15%	9%	21%	17%	14%	16%
Somewhat important	(31)	34	30	38	35	35	32
Not too important	(49)	50	60	40	48	50	52
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	-	2	2

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

		All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important		13%	9%	18%	14%	11%	16%
Somewhat important		34	30	38	35	31	37
Not too important		50	57	43	50	57	44
Can't say		3	4	1	2	2	4

SOCIAL CLIMATE AND ACTIVITIES AT THE COLLEGE

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(15%)	13%	8%	19%	14%	13%	13%
Somewhat important	(34)	39	34	44	40	39	39
Not too important	(51)	47	57	37	46	48	47
Can't say	(1)	1	1	-	-	1	1

Of least importance;

- * Sports opportunities (78% not too important).
- * Type of housing available (74% not too important);
- * Male/female ratio of student body (70% not too important);
- * Racial/ethnic makeup of the college (62% not too important);
- * Friends who attend or plan to attend college (60% not too important).

SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(8%)	5%	4%	7%	6%	4%	5%
Somewhat important	(15)	16	11	21	17	15	15
Not too important	(76)	78	84	72	76	80	79
Can't say	(1)	1	2	-	1	1	1

TYPE OF HOUSING AVAILABLE

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(9%)	8%	5%	10%	7%	6%	10%
Somewhat important	(13)	13	9	16	14	9	16
Not too important	(76)	74	81	68	74	79	70
Can't say	(2)	5	5	6	5	7	5

<u>MALE/FEMALE RATIO OF STUDENT BODY</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(7%)	7%	5%	9%	7%	8%	8%
Somewhat important	(16)	22	19	25	25	19	22
Not too important	(76)	70	74	65	68	72	69
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	1	1	2

<u>RACIAL/ETHNIC MAKEUP OF THE COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(10%)	10%	8%	13%	12%	10%	9%
Somewhat important	(18)	26	25	28	30	24	26
Not too important	(71)	62	66	58	59	65	62
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	-	2	3

<u>FRIENDS ATTEND OR PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very important	(12%)	11%	8%	14%	10%	11%	12%
Somewhat important	(27)	28	23	34	27	29	29
Not too important	(60)	60	68	52	63	59	57
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	-	2	2

"Was there any other factor that influenced you in selecting the community college you now attend? If so, what was that?"

	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
No other factors	(84%)	56%	60%	51%	58%	49%	60%
Credits transfer to a 4-year college	(2)	2	2	3	3	2	2
Miscellaneous factors	(2)	2	2	2	2	2	1
Can't say	(5)	41	36	45	37	48	37

IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Community college students attach almost as much importance to the Associate degree as they did two years ago. This, the majority (54%) said that two-year degree is very important, down just slightly from 60% who attached that high level of importance in 1988.

Another one-fifth (20%) said the degree is somewhat important, for a total of 74% who saw the degree as being important. So they followed suit by indicating that 72% hope to complete the requirements for the Associate degree. That is almost the same percentage as was indicated by respondents in the 1988 community college student survey (71%).

"How important is getting an Associate degree from the community college? If that very important, somewhat important, or not too important?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Very important	(60%)	54%	50%	58%	58%	48%	57%
Somewhat important	(17)	20	23	18	17	26	17
Not too important	(21)	23	24	22	23	23	23
Can't say	(2)	3	3	2	3	3	3

This year, interviewers asked students, "What is so important about an Associate degree?".

Free responses produced a rare chorus of similar reasons. Almost four out of ten students said, "It shows that you can complete a goal" (37%). And that was echoed by both full-time (36%) and part-time students (39%). It was named in a significantly greater frequency by students attending a more rural, regional community college (43%) than by students in urban colleges (30%).

More pragmatism was evident in the second most frequent response: "It's easier -- it does not take as long to get as a four-year degree." That was named by 20% of the students.

Nearly one-fifth (18%) also said an Associate degree "Opens up job opportunities" or it "qualifies one for licensing". The same percentage (18%) volunteered, "It shows others that you have a goal".

All reasons for the importance of the degree are shown in the Table below:

"(IF "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT") What is so important about an Associate degree?"

	74% of All Resp.*	73% of Part Time*	76% of Full Time*	75% of Urb.*	74% of Sub.*	74% of Req.*
Shows you can complete a goal	37%	39%	36%	30%	39%	43%
It's easier; does not take as long as a 4-year degree	20	19	20	17	20	22
Need for job/opens up job opportunities/licensing	18	19	18	22	16	17
It shows you have a goal	18	15	21	17	21	16
Important if you cannot go for a 4-year degree	9	8	9	9	11	5
Helps to transfer to a 4-year college/halfway to goal	5	4	7	5	6	6
Affects pay/advancement at work	2	4	1	2	3	2
Good place to get started	3	2	3	2	3	3
Miscellaneous reasons	2	1	2	1	2	2
Can't say	23	3	2	5	3	3

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

Intention to get the Associate degree are higher among part-time students in urban and suburban community colleges but is a greater goal of full-time rather than part-time students in the regional community colleges. It is more of a goal for a married student rather than one who is single -- the latter is more likely to transfer to a four-year school to accomplish a four-year degree.

The next Table shows the high intentions of today's community college students who hope to acquire the Associate degree.

"Do you plan to complete the requirements for an Associate degree from the community college?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(71%)	72%	72%	72%	72%	68%	76%
No	(21)	22	21	22	22	25	19
Can't say/undecided	(9)	6	7	6	6	8	6

IMPORTANCE OF THE GPA

Whether the community college student plans to transfer to a four-year school or just improve his or her present job status, the Grade Point Average (GPA) in the community college is viewed with a great deal of importance.

Top responses to a query about importance of the GPA was "Employers look for that" or "You need it to get the job", mentioned by 40% of the students. And that reason is cited almost equally by part-time students as well as full-time students.

Over one-third (35%) of the students also pointed out a high GPA was necessary to transfer to a four-year college. That was named by almost one-half (49%) of those students who plan to transfer, compared to only 13% who have no plans to transfer.

The third major reason for importance of the GPA was the opinion that "It is just a personal goal, a desire I have" -- named by one-third (33%) of the respondents.

All of the reasons named are shown in the Table below:

"Nowadays, many community college students attach a great deal of importance toward having a high grade point average, or GPA. What is so important about the GPA?"

	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Employers look for that/ to get a job	40%	39%	40%	36%	42%	42%
Need high GPA to transfer to a 4-year college	35	27	43	31	42	31
It is a personal goal, desire To get recognition	33	35	31	31	33	36
Need it to be eligible for financial aid, scholarship	11	12	11	12	9	13
Some programs require high GPA to be able to continue	8	6	9	6	6	10
Shows what you know; how much you've learned	7	5	9	6	7	8
It is not very important	2	3	2	2	2	3
Miscellaneous reasons	2	2	1	3	1	2
Can't say	1	2	1	1	2	1
	7	9	5	6	7	8

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

CURRENT ACADEMIC STATUS OF STUDENTS

The vast majority of community college students -- nearly two-thirds of them, (65%), said they are doing better, academically, in community college than they did when they were in high school.

This was reported by 69% of the full-time students but also by 61% of those enrolled part-time.

Another 28% said they are doing about the same level of academic work as they did when they were in high school while only 5% admitted that they are not doing as well as they did when they were in high school.

"Are you doing better, academically, in community college than when you were in high school?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Better now	65%	61%	69%	66%	68%	61%
About the same	28	30	26	26	26	33
Not as good	5	5	5	6	3	5
Can't say	2	4	1	3	3	1

Self-reported grade averages of students in this year's poll are about the same as two years ago, with nearly one-third (32%) reporting they consider their grades to be an A average while the majority (56%) report they are holding a B average. Only one in ten students (10%) has a C average and below C's are reported by only 1% of the students.

"Since you have been in a community college, do you consider your grades to be approximately an: . . ."

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
A average	(32%)	32%	37%	27%	29%	30%	37%
B average	(54)	56	52	60	58	57	53
C average	(12)	10	9	11	11	10	9
Below C	(1)	1	1	1	2	1	1
Can't say	(1)	1	2	1	2	2	1

"AN EXTENSION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL": DISAGREEMENT

One of the younger students in a student group who suggested questions for this biennial survey said she felt community college was just "an extension of the high school".

But the vast majority of present community college students disagree with that statement. Nearly three-fourths (74%) said they disagree, while only one-fifth (20%) agreed that community college is not like a real college, that it is just an extension of the high school. That opinion is more likely to be found among younger, full-time students (24%) than among those who are enrolled part-time (15%).

"Some community college students say a community college is not like a real college -- it's just an extension of the high school. Would you agree or disagree with that?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Agree	20%	15%	24%	23%	19%	17%
Disagree	74	79	70	72	76	76
Can't say	6	6	6	6	5	8

COMFORTABILITY WITH A CROSS-AGE STUDENT BODY

The vast majority of community college students -- eight out of ten (82%) say they are very comfortable being in classes with people who are either a lot older or a lot younger than they are.

Another 15% said they were somewhat comfortable going to classes with students of a wide variety of ages.

Only 2% expressed some discomfort with this cross-age mix while 1% admitted they are very uncomfortable with that variety of ages among students in their classes.

"Community colleges serve students of different ages -- from those in their late 'teens to older adults. How comfortable do you feel being in classes with people who are either a lot older or a lot younger than you? Would you say you are very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, somewhat uncomfortable, or very uncomfortable about that?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very comfortable	82%	82%	82%	79%	83%	84%
Somewhat comfortable	15	15	14	17	13	14
Somewhat uncomfortable	2	2	3	3	3	2
Very uncomfortable	1	-	1	1	-	-
Can't say	1	1	-	1	1	1

OPINIONS ABOUT TUITION, COSTS AND FEES

Nearly three out of five community college students (58%) say the cost of tuition at the community college is very reasonable, and nine out of ten (91%) say they think they are getting their money's worth.

Better than one-third (36%) state the cost of tuition at their college is at least somewhat reasonable. Only 4% feel tuition costs are unreasonable. That low percentage is almost the same as the 3% who expressed the same thought in 1988.

"How reasonable is the cost of tuition at the community college you attend? Is it very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or unreasonable?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very reasonable	(60%)	58%	56%	60%	56%	58%	61%
Somewhat reasonable	(36)	36	37	34	37	36	34
Unreasonable	(3)	4	4	5	5	4	4
Can't say	(1)	2	3	2	1	3	2

The "money's worth" question produced almost the same high expression of satisfaction as responses to the same question two years ago, as can be noted in the Table below:

"Do you think you are getting your money's worth?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(93%)	91%	90%	92%	89%	92%	92%
No	(4)	6	6	5	6	5	6
Can't say	(3)	3	4	3	5	3	3

Tuition at most community colleges only covers about 30% of the total per-student cost to the college, but the typical community college student does not know that.

Sixteen percent (16%) believe their tuition covers the entire cost of going to the college and one-third (35%) think it covers most of the costs. Another 17% think tuition only covers about one-half of the cost of college while another 6% believe tuition covers less than one-half the cost of college. Further, one-fourth (26%) admit that they have no idea. The wide variety of opinions clearly indicates the tuition/cost ratio is really not understood by the typical community college student.

"Based on what you know, how much of the cost of being enrolled in college is covered by tuition?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
All of it	16%	15%	17%	14%	14%	20%
Most of it	35	34	36	36	35	34
About one-half of it	17	16	19	18	13	21
Less than one-half	6	7	4	5	6	7
Can't say	26	28	25	28	32	19

When students were asked about the reasonableness of the different fees that are charged by community colleges, very few indicated dissatisfaction with those fees. But students loudly protest when it comes to the cost of their books.

Registration fees are considered to be fairly reasonable, with 42% saying these fees are very reasonable, another 47% said such fees are somewhat reasonable. Only 7% felt registration fees were unreasonable.

Lab fees are felt to be very reasonable by one-third (34%) of the students and somewhat reasonable by 44%. Only 7% again said these are unreasonable while another 16% do not pay lab fees.

One-third (34%) were unable to judge a fee called an activity fee, but one-fifth (22%) said these fees are very reasonable. Another 35% felt activity fees are somewhat reasonable while 10% objected and said this fee is unreasonable.

Nearly one-half of the students (43%) apparently do not pay a physical education fee. Eighteen percent who do said such fees are very reasonable; another 31% said these fees are somewhat reasonable while 9% expressed the opinion the fee is unreasonable.

While three-fourths of the students named no other fee, 6% said other fees charged by community colleges for miscellaneous purposes are very reasonable, 14% said they were somewhat reasonable and 6% felt these were unreasonable.

"Let me ask you about the different fees that are charged by some community colleges. How reasonable are each of these: . . ."

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
<u>REGISTRATION FEES</u>							
Very reasonable	(43%)	42%	39%	45%	39%	43%	44%
Somewhat reasonable	(47)	47	48	46	47	47	48
Unreasonable	(5)	7	8	6	8	7	6
Not applicable	(5)	4	5	3	6	4	3

<u>LAB FEES</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very reasonable	(37%)	34%	29%	38%	30%	35%	36%
Somewhat reasonable	(38)	44	43	44	46	44	41
Unreasonable	(6)	7	8	6	10	6	5
Not applicable	(20)	16	20	12	14	16	18

<u>ACTIVITY FEE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very reasonable	(23%)	22%	18%	25%	21%	22%	23%
Somewhat reasonable	(30)	35	34	36	38	31	35
Unreasonable	(8)	10	11	8	13	8	8
Not applicable	(40)	34	37	31	29	39	34

<u>PHYSICAL EDUCATION FEE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very reasonable	(16%)	18%	13%	23%	15%	20%	19%
Somewhat reasonable	(25)	31	28	33	36	26	30
Unreasonable	(5)	9	8	10	11	7	9
Not applicable	(53)	43	52	35	39	48	42

<u>OTHER FEES</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very reasonable	(8%)	6%	5%	6%	4%	8%	6%
Somewhat reasonable	(11)	14	15	13	10	15	15
Unreasonable	(7)	6	6	5	6	4	7
Not applicable	(74)	75	74	77	80	73	73

Over two-thirds of the students (68%) this year said they felt the fees they paid for books were unreasonable. While full-time students carrying a heavier academic load protested such costs the most, even the majority (58%) of part-time students protested.

Only 5% of the students felt the cost of books was very reasonable, while another 18% said these were somewhat reasonable.

<u>BOOK FEES</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Very reasonable	5%	8%	3%	6%	6%	-%
Somewhat reasonable	18	19	16	26	-	20
Unreasonable	68	58	77	55	88	80
Not applicable	9	15	3	13	6	-

IMPORTANCE OF THE "GUARANTEE"

Two years ago, in the first statewide survey of opinions of community college students, the vast majority of students (76%) said "the guarantee" is very important to them. This guarantee is a practice of some of the state's community colleges where the school guarantees that community college courses will transfer to a four-year college or that community college graduates are properly trained for the workplace.

This year, seven out of ten students (71%) said such a guarantee is very important; another one-fifth (19%) said it is at least somewhat important to them. Only about one in ten (9%) felt this was not too important.

The full-time community college student attaches more importance to such a guarantee than do part-time students. Almost eight out of ten full-time students (78%) said the guarantee is very important while 64% of part-time students agreed, but 13% of part-time students said the guarantee was not too important to them.

Students who do not feel a guarantee is that important are more likely to be not only attending college on a part-time basis but are older, are married, and not intending to transfer to a four-year college.

"Some colleges promise a "guarantee" to students. These include such things as a guarantee that community college courses will transfer to any 4-year college, or a guarantee that the community college graduate will be properly trained for a job. How important is such a guarantee to you -- very important, somewhat important, or not too important?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(76%)	71%	64%	78%	73%	70%	69%
Somewhat important	(15)	19	21	18	17	20	21
Not too important	(8)	9	13	4	9	8	8
Can't say	(1)	2	3	-	1	2	2

HOW STUDENTS RATE COLLEGE SERVICES

The majority of community college students rated 13 out of 17 services provided by their college as either "good" or "excellent".

Highest ratings went to:

- * Library services (81% "good" to "excellent")
- * Campus safety (81% "good" to "excellent")

<u>LIBRARY SERVICES</u>	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(39%)	37%	31%	43%	36%	35%	41%
Good	(43)	44	45	44	46	48	39
Fair	(7)	8	8	9	9	8	8
Poor	(2)	2	1	2	3	1	1
N/A Can't say	(9)	9	16	3	8	8	12

<u>CAMPUS SAFETY</u>	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	26%	22%	29%	22%	25%	30%
Good	55	56	53	55	58	51
Fair	11	10	12	12	10	12
Poor	3	4	3	5	4	1
N/A Can't say	5	8	3	6	4	6

Other services getting the highest ratings included:

- * Bookstore (74% "good" to "excellent")
- * Handicapped access (71% "good" to "excellent")
- * Computer labs and facilities (68% "good" to "excellent")
- * Course selection advisement (66% "good" to "excellent")
- * New student orientation (63% "good" to "excellent")
- * Study rooms/areas (62% "good" to "excellent")

The majority of students also rated these services in the "good" to "excellent" range:

- * Tutorial help (59% "good" to "excellent")
- * Financial aid assistance (58% "good" to "excellent")
- * Parking availability (54% "good" to "excellent")
- * Food services (52% "good" to "excellent")
- * Reading labs (51% "good" to "excellent")

A plurality of students (49%) rated the student activities that are provided as "good" or "excellent". Nearly one-half of the students (47%) said the availability of typing rooms was "good" to "excellent" and job placement services were rated 43% as "good" to "excellent".

"Poor" ratings for all of these services were minimal, with the exception of parking availability, where 23% of all students rated it as "poor". Highest criticism of that (33%) was noted from urban community college students.

"Community colleges offer a wide range of services to students. Let me read you some of those. As I name each one, tell me how you would rate that service at your community college -- excellent, good, fair, or poor."

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
<u>BOOKSTORE</u>						
Excellent	21%	19%	24%	18%	24%	22%
Good	53	54	53	55	57	48
Fair	17	17	18	18	13	21
Poor	5	5	6	7	4	6
N/A Can't say	3	5	1	2	3	3

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
<u>HANDICAPPED ACCESS</u>						
Excellent	24%	20%	28%	22%	21%	29%
Good	47	47	47	49	48	45
Fair	8	6	10	8	7	9
Poor	4	3	4	4	3	4
N/A Can't say	18	24	11	18	22	13

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
<u>COMPUTER LABS/ FACILITIES</u>							
Excellent	(31%)	33%	28%	39%	31%	35%	35%
Good	(35)	35	33	37	37	37	32
Fair	(8)	9	10	8	10	6	12
Poor	(2)	2	1	2	3	1	1
N/A Can't say	(25)	21	28	14	20	21	21

<u>COURSE SELECTION ADVISEMENT</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(19%)	22%	22%	23%	21%	24%	23%
Good	(46)	44	43	45	41	44	46
Fair	(21)	20	18	21	22	19	19
Poor	(5)	7	6	8	9	7	6
N/A Can't say	(9)	7	11	4	8	6	8

<u>NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION</u>		<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent		22%	20%	24%	22%	23%	20%
Good		41	38	45	44	39	40
Fair		16	16	17	16	16	18
Poor		5	4	6	4	5	6
N/A Can't say		16	23	9	15	17	17

<u>STUDY ROOMS/AREAS</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(20%)	21%	17%	24%	20%	21%	23%
Good	(41)	41	41	41	41	43	40
Fair	(14)	14	13	16	16	10	18
Poor	(4)	5	4	6	7	3	5
N/A Can't say	(20)	19	26	12	18	23	16

<u>TUTORIAL HELP</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(23%)	27%	20%	33%	26%	23%	31%
Good	(30)	32	29	35	34	29	32
Fair	(11)	12	11	13	13	11	11
Poor	(2)	3	4	3	5	2	4
N/A Can't say	(34)	27	38	17	23	36	23

<u>FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(24%)	28%	21%	34%	26%	22%	36%
Good	(31)	30	28	31	32	28	29
Fair	(10)	11	10	12	11	10	13
Poor	(3)	5	4	6	5	7	2
N/A Can't say	(32)	27	37	17	26	35	21

<u>PARKING AVAILABILITY</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(23%)	18%	19%	17%	13%	19%	22%
Good	(34)	36	40	31	31	38	38
Fair	(19)	22	20	25	22	22	24
Poor	(23)	23	19	26	33	19	16
N/A Can't say	(1)	2	3	1	2	2	2

<u>FOOD SERVICE</u>	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	12%	10%	14%	8%	13%	15%
Good	40	31	48	41	39	39
Fair	19	18	19	22	16	18
Poor	5	5	6	7	5	4
N/A Can't say	24	35	14	22	27	24

<u>READING LABS</u>	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(16%)	16%	13%	19%	17%	16%	15%
Good	(33)	35	31	39	37	36	33
Fair	(8)	9	9	10	10	7	10
Poor	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	2
N/A Can't say	(42)	39	46	31	35	40	41

<u>STUDENT ACTIVITIES</u>	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(11%)	11%	8%	15%	9%	13%	12%
Good	(38)	38	32	44	44	37	34
Fair	(17)	16	14	18	16	13	20
Poor	(4)	4	3	5	4	3	5
N/A Can't say	(30)	31	42	19	28	35	29

<u>TYPING ROOMS</u>	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(13%)	16%	12%	20%	14%	15%	19%
Good	(33)	31	28	34	30	29	34
Fair	(8)	10	9	10	11	8	10
Poor	(2)	2	1	3	3	2	2
N/A Can't say	(44)	42	51	33	43	47	36

<u>JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES</u>	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(14%)	14%	10%	17%	11%	14%	16%
Good	(28)	29	23	34	31	26	30
Fair	(11)	11	10	13	13	10	11
Poor	(3)	3	3	3	3	3	3
N/A Can't say	(44)	43	53	33	42	47	40

<u>CHILD CARE PROVISIONS</u>	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(7%)	7%	6%	9%	7%	9%	6%
Good	(16)	14	12	17	14	14	15
Fair	(5)	5	5	6	5	5	6
Poor	(4)	5	4	6	4	3	9
N/A Can't say	(68)	69	74	64	70	70	66

OTHER OPINIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

All of the students interviewed were read a series of six statements about the typical community college and asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement.

Student opinions this year paralleled those of two years ago when nine out of ten students (94%) agreed (one-fifth of them very strongly) that their college has high quality programs. And nine out of ten (90%) also agreed that a large variety of courses and programs are offered.

The vast majority (86%) also agreed that the college has a high quality program in their subject area.

In response to a new question in this survey, eight out of ten (80%) agreed that their college provides educational opportunities for students regardless of one's academic record. That opinion was shared equally by part-time and full-time students.

Further, seven out of ten agreed (72%) that their college has an "open door policy" -- that it admits any student regardless of their academic record.

And seven out of ten also shared the opinion with 1988 students and disagreed with the statement that their college has too many required courses. Only one-fifth (20%) of the students agreed with that statement.

The Tables that follow provide details to each of the statements.

"Now let me read you a hand full of statements about your community college. Tell me, when it comes to your college, whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each one: . . ."

THE COLLEGE HAS HIGH-QUALITY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Strongly agree	(21%)	21%	19%	23%	22%	22%	19%
Agree	(73)	73	74	72	71	73	75
Disagree	(4)	4	4	4	6	3	4
Strongly disagree	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-

A LARGE VARIETY OF COURSES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Req.
Strongly agree	(26%)	24%	20%	27%	25%	26%	20%
Agree	(65)	66	68	65	66	67	66
Disagree	(7)	8	10	7	8	5	12
Strongly disagree	(1)	-	1	-	-	-	1
Can't say	(2)	1	2	1	1	2	2

A HIGH-QUALITY
PROGRAM IN MY
SUBJECT AREA

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(31%)	27%	23%	31%	28%	25%	29%
Agree	(56)	59	63	55	59	61	58
Disagree	(9)	10	8	11	10	10	9
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Can't say	(3)	3	5	1	3	3	3

COLLEGE PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF
ACADEMIC RECORD

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	17%	12%	21%	18%	15%	17%
Agree	63	63	62	61	66	61
Disagree	8	8	8	8	8	7
Strongly disagree	-	1	-	-	1	-
Can't say	13	17	9	12	11	15

MY COLLEGE HAS AN
"OPEN DOOR" POLICY

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(16%)	18%	14%	21%	20%	15%	18%
Agree	(54)	54	53	55	54	58	50
Disagree	(14)	12	12	12	12	12	12
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	-
Can't say	(16)	16	21	12	13	15	21

MY COLLEGE HAS TOO
MANY REQUIRED COURSES

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Strongly agree	(3%)	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	2%
Agree	(14)	16	14	17	20	13	14
Disagree	(68)	70	70	71	67	72	73
Strongly disagree	(8)	5	4	7	6	5	6
Can't say	(6)	5	9	2	4	6	6

Almost all students (96%) agreed that students at their college are friendly. They reaffirmed a viewpoint expressed by students in 1988. One-fourth (23%) strongly agreed with that and 73% agreed. Only 3% disagreed.

In response to a new question in this survey, eight out of ten students agreed that their college should have a smoke-free environment. One-fifth (22%) strongly agreed with that while the majority (57%) agreed. Seventeen percent disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed.

Better than eight out of ten (87%) also agreed that their college has made adequate provisions for handicapper accessibility.

Nine out of ten students also agreed that students at their college get along well regardless of their racial or ethnic background. Fourteen percent (14%) strongly agreed and 74% agreed. Only 6% disagreed.

On that subject, seven out of ten students agreed that their college has clear policies to prevent racism and/or sexism. Ten percent (10%) agreed strongly while 60% agreed and 11% disagreed. (One-fifth (19%) are unaware of such policies and could not respond.)

The vast majority also agreed that their college has many activities and organizations for students and that the college offers many cultural events and programs. Only in the regional colleges was there much disagreement about the latter. One-fourth of the students in those colleges (23%) disagreed with another 2% in strong disagreement.

The plurality of students did not agree (49%) with the statement that many students in the college use drugs and/or alcohol. Only 3% strongly agreed with that opinion while another 16% agreed. While 49% disagreed, one-third (32%) of the students had no opinion.

One-fourth of the students (26%) were unable to answer a question about whether many students in their college hold extreme political views. While 3% strongly agreed and 29% agreed with that statement, another 39% disagreed.

"Tell me whether you agree or disagree with these statements. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that. . ."

<u>THE STUDENTS ARE FRIENDLY</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(18%)	23%	22%	23%	19%	26%	23%
Agree	(76)	73	73	73	75	70	75
Disagree	(3)	3	3	3	5	3	1
Strongly disagree	(-)	-	-	-	-	1	-
Can't say	(2)	1	2	1	2	1	2

<u>COLLEGE SHOULD HAVE SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT</u>		<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree		22%	21%	23%	22%	21%	23%
Agree		57	60	54	60	52	59
Disagree		17	14	19	15	22	13
Strongly disagree		2	3	2	2	2	3
Can't say		3	3	2	2	4	3

<u>PROVISIONS FOR HANDICAPPER ACCESSIBILITY</u>		<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree		19%	15%	24%	19%	18%	22%
Agree		68	70	66	68	72	64
Disagree		5	5	5	6	3	6
Strongly disagree		1	1	1	1	1	1
Can't say		7	9	5	7	8	7

<u>STUDENTS GET ALONG WELL REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACIAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(10%)	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	15%
Agree	(79)	74	73	76	74	76	74
Disagree	(4)	6	5	7	10	5	3
Strongly disagree	(1)	-	-	1	1	-	1
Can't say	(6)	6	9	3	4	6	9

**COLLEGE HAS CLEAR
POLICIES TO PREVENT
RACISM AND/OR SEXISM**

	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(10%)	10%	8%	12%	8%	13%	9%
Agree	(61)	60	59	61	62	58	60
Disagree	(9)	10	7	12	12	8	9
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	2	1	1	1	2
Can't say	(19)	19	24	14	17	21	20

**COLLEGE HAS MANY
ACTIVITIES AND ORGANI-
ZATIONS FOR STUDENTS**

	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(9%)	13%	10%	15%	13%	15%	10%
Agree	(67)	64	65	63	67	65	60
Disagree	(14)	12	8	16	12	8	16
Strongly disagree	(2)	1	1	2	1	2	2
Can't say	(9)	10	16	5	9	10	12

**COLLEGE OFFERS MANY
CULTURAL EVENTS
AND PROGRAMS**

	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(9%)	10%	9%	11%	13%	8%	9%
Agree	(56)	59	59	59	63	58	56
Disagree	(22)	17	15	20	12	16	23
Strongly disagree	(2)	1	1	2	1	1	2
Can't say	(12)	13	17	9	13	17	10

**MANY STUDENTS USE
DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL**

	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(2%)	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Agree	(20)	16	11	22	16	18	15
Disagree	(42)	37	34	41	37	39	37
Strongly disagree	(6)	12	14	11	12	9	15
Can't say	(30)	32	40	24	34	32	30

**MANY STUDENTS HOLD
EXTREME POLITICAL VIEWS**

	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Strongly agree	(2%)	3%	1%	4%	2%	4%	1%
Agree	(23)	29	25	33	36	25	26
Disagree	(49)	39	37	41	35	40	42
Strongly disagree	(3)	4	3	4	2	3	6
Can't say	(22)	26	35	18	26	28	25

RATINGS OF SERVICES FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS

Part-time community college night school students again gave the college a high rating on the availability of a variety of course offerings at night. One-fifth (20%) of these students rated such a variety as "excellent", another 45% as "good". About one-fifth (18%) gave their college only a fair rating in that regard while another 6% rated night offerings as "poor". Those ratings are almost the same as those given by part-time students in 1988.

"Let me ask you a series of questions that pertain to part-time night school students. How would you rate each of these? Excellent, good, fair, or poor?"

AVAILABILITY OF A VARIETY OF COURSE OFFERINGS AT NIGHT

	('88 State)	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(23%)	20%	19%	23%	17%
Good	(37)	45	47	48	39
Fair	(19)	18	15	15	25
Poor	(7)	6	5	5	9
Can't say	(15)	8	6	10	7
Not applicable	(-)	4	4	-	2

While the majority of part-time students (55%) rated as excellent or good, about one-fifth of these students said availability of library services at night was only fair if not poor. One-fourth (24%) of part-time students in the regional colleges were of this low opinion.

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY SERVICES AT NIGHT

	('88 State)	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(17%)	12%	10%	16%	11%
Good	(38)	43	46	44	39
Fair	(9)	13	11	13	15
Poor	(7)	8	9	5	9
Can't say	(29)	21	17	24	22

Accessibility to computer labs at night was seen as being "excellent" or "good" by the plurality (44%) of part-time students, another one-third (33%) had no opinion but one-fifth were somewhat dissatisfied, as 12% said "fair" to such accessibility and 8% said "poor". Those two lower ratings were voiced by 23% of regional college part-time students.

ACCESSIBILITY TO COMPUTER LABS AT NIGHT

	('88 State)	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(12%)	10%	10%	11%	10%
Good	(27)	34	34	36	33
Fair	(14)	12	11	11	13
Poor	(7)	8	8	5	10
Can't say	(41)	33	30	38	30

Lukewarm ratings resulted from student ratings of the availability of counseling and guidance services at night in the community colleges. While 6% rated these services as "excellent" and another 25% rated them "good", one-fifth (22%) rated such services as "fair" while another one-fifth (20%) rated them as "poor". One-fourth (24%) of the students questioned had no opinion.

AVAILABILITY OF COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES AT NIGHT

	('88 State)	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(6%)	6%	6%	8%	4%
Good	(22)	25	24	29	21
Fair	(21)	22	23	19	23
Poor	(19)	20	18	17	27
Can't say	(33)	24	22	28	22

One-half of the part-time students were unable to rate the adequacy of tutoring services at night. Among those who did, 4% said "excellent", 21% "good", 13% rated this as "fair" and 9% as "poor".

AVAILABILITY OF TUTORING SERVICES AT NIGHT

	('88 State)	Part Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Excellent	(4%)	4%	4%	4%	4%
Good	(20)	21	21	20	22
Fair	(12)	13	17	9	13
Poor	(7)	9	7	6	13
Can't say	(56)	50	43	62	44
Not applicable	(-)	4	7	1	5

OPINIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY

The majority of students in 1990 said what the majority of community college students said two years ago (1988) -- the level of instruction in the community college is about what they had expected. While 15% felt it was more difficult than they expected (18% of 18 and 19 year-olds said that), another 18% felt it was less difficult than they had expected.

"How would you rate the level of instruction at your community college? Is it more difficult than you expected, less difficult than you expected, or about what you had expected?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
More difficult	(14%)	15%	13%	16%	15%	12%	17%
Less difficult	(21)	18	17	19	17	20	17
About what I expected	(65)	67	69	65	68	67	66

But, again, community college students -- both part-time and full-time, gave community college full-time faculty members high praise.

Almost one-half of the students (48%) rated such faculty's willingness to meet with students when needed as "excellent". Another 36% rated this willingness as "good", 9% as "fair" and only 1% as poor. Those ratings are quite similar to those of students two years ago.

"Let's talk about the faculty at your community college. First, when it comes to full-time faculty, how would you rate them on each of these. . ."

<u>WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH STUDENTS WHEN NEEDED</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(47%)	48%	44%	52%	42%	43%	60%
Good	(37)	36	38	34	39	42	28
Fair	(11)	9	7	10	11	9	6
Poor	(2)	1	2	1	1	1	2
Can't say	(4)	6	9	2	7	5	5

Eight out of ten students (81%) also gave high ratings to the interest in individual students shown by full-time faculty members. Forty percent (40%) rated this interest as "excellent", 41% as "good". Another 11% rated such interest "fair" while only 3% rated the faculty as "poor" in this regard.

<u>FACULTY'S INTEREST IN INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(39%)	40%	37%	44%	34%	34%	54%
Good	(43)	41	41	40	43	48	30
Fair	(13)	11	11	12	14	11	9
Poor	(3)	3	2	3	3	3	2
Can't say	(3)	5	9	2	7	4	5

Full-time faculty again drew high ratings on the way they present their subject material. About four out of ten students (39%) rated such presentations as "excellent", 47% as "good" and 7% as "fair". Only 1% rated this as "poor".

<u>FACULTY PRESENT THEIR SUBJECT MATERIAL</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(34%)	39%	35%	43%	34%	35%	48%
Good	(52)	47	48	47	50	52	41
Fair	(9)	7	7	7	8	8	6
Poor	(2)	1	1	1	1	2	1
Can't say	(3)	6	9	2	7	5	5

Part-time faculty drew almost the same high ratings. Seven out of ten (70%) rated them "excellent" or "good" on their willingness to meet with students when needed, 72% rated them that highly on their interest in individual students and 73% gave them "excellent" or "good" ratings on the way they present their subject materials.

"Now, how about part-time faculty members. . . How would you rate them?"

<u>WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH STUDENTS WHEN NEEDED</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(27%)	32%	32%	32%	28%	27%	41%
Good	(36)	38	42	35	40	41	34
Fair	(15)	14	10	18	16	15	11
Poor	(5)	4	4	4	5	3	4
Can't say	(17)	12	13	12	12	14	11

<u>FACULTY'S INTEREST IN INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(26%)	29%	30%	28%	25%	23%	38%
Good	(37)	43	44	42	46	45	37
Fair	(17)	13	12	15	14	16	11
Poor	(4)	3	3	4	3	4	3
Can't say	(17)	12	12	12	12	13	11

<u>FACULTY PRESENT THEIR SUBJECT MATERIAL</u>	<u>('88 State)</u>	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Excellent	(22%)	26%	27%	25%	25%	22%	32%
Good	(44)	47	47	47	49	49	43
Fair	(14)	12	11	13	11	13	12
Poor	(3)	3	3	4	4	4	3
Can't say	(17)	12	12	12	13	13	11

In an effort to learn if students could differentiate between full-time and part-time faculty, it was clearly evident that they can tell. Almost one-half (47%) said the instructor tells them, another 10% said they could tell by the hours and number of classes they teach, or the catalog informs them (8%), or the fact that full-timers have office hours while part-timers have no offices (8%). Three percent said they felt part-time instructors were friendlier while another 2% said full-time instructors know their subject matter better.

"How can you tell whether a faculty member is full-time or part-time?"

	<u>All Resp.*</u>	<u>Part Time*</u>	<u>Full Time*</u>	<u>Urb.*</u>	<u>Sub.*</u>	<u>Reg.*</u>
Instructor lets you know	47%	48%	47%	48%	49%	46%
By the hours they teach (day/night) and number of classes taught	10	7	13	8	11	12
Catalog tells you	8	8	8	7	8	9
Full-time have on-campus office hours/part-time have no offices	8	6	10	8	9	7
By the way they act; part- timers are friendlier	3	3	3	3	4	3
Full-timers know their subject better/part-time not as prepared	2	1	2	1	2	2
Miscellaneous ways	4	5	3	2	2	8
Can't say	24	27	21	28	22	22

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

Community college faculty drew the highest praise when students were asked about the ease they find when they seek help from a faculty member. A solid majority (58%) said getting such help was "very easy". Another 34% said it was somewhat easy. Only 5% said this was somewhat difficult while even fewer, 1% said it was very difficult.

"When you feel you need help from a faculty member, how easy is it to get that help -- very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very easy	58%	56%	60%	54%	56%	64%
Somewhat easy	34	35	33	34	38	31
Somewhat difficult	5	4	6	7	4	4
Very difficult	1	1	1	1	1	1
Can't say/have not needed	2	3	1	3	2	1

TESTING STUDENTS' BASIC SKILLS

This year's community college students agree wholeheartedly with his or her peers of two years ago -- eight out of ten (82%) say they agree that their college should have a policy to test all students in math, reading and writing skill levels before admitting students into college courses. And that opinion is equally shared by both part-time and full-time students.

Only 15% of the students disagreed with that, as can be noted in the Table below:

"Do you think your college should have a policy to test all students in math, reading and writing skill levels before admitting those students into college courses?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(79%)	82%	82%	82%	79%	85%	82%
No	(18)	15	14	16	17	12	15
Undecided/can't say	(3)	3	5	2	4	3	3

IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

An active student government organization is seen as not too important by almost one-half (45%) of currently enrolled students. That high attachment to the opinion that a student organization is not that important is a continuation of the viewpoint expressed by 49% of the community college students polled two years ago.

Nearly one-fifth (18%) of the current students disagreed, saying such an organization is very important. That opinion is held by significantly more black students (41%) than white students. It is also more likely to be viewed as very important by younger students (age 18-19) and more so by full-time rather than part-time students.

About one-third of the students (32%) said they feel an active student government organization is somewhat important.

"How important is an active student government organization on your campus? Is that very important, somewhat important, or not too important?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Very important	(15%)	18%	16%	20%	20%	11%	23%
Somewhat important	(30)	32	29	35	35	31	30
Not too important	(49)	45	49	42	41	54	42
Can't say	(5)	5	7	4	5	5	6

STUDENTS' NEED FOR FINANCIAL AID

Students' need for financial aid in the community colleges is significantly greater than it was two years ago. Better than four out of every ten students (44%) say they are now receiving or will have to apply for financial aid. That is up 4% from 1988.

Such a need is significantly greater for full-time students (55%) rather than part-time students (33%). More female students (47%) say they need financial aid, than men students (40%).

The majority of full-time students (55%) in the urban community colleges say they need financial aid but such a need is even greater (61%) among full-time students in the regional community colleges. And more single students (46%) than married students (41%) indicate a need for financial aid to attend a community college.

"Are you now receiving or will you have to apply for financial aid to continue in college?"

	('88 State)	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	(40%)	44%	33%	55%	45%	38%	49%
No	(59)	54	65	43	53	61	49
Can't say	(1)	2	3	2	3	2	2

Almost one-third of today's community college students have a full-time job. That was reported by 31% of the students interviewed.

One-half (51%) of current part-time students report they are attending college while working full-time. In fact, one-third (33%) of these students also report that their employer is providing them with some sort of financial assistance.

Only one in ten (12%) full-time students report they are working full-time to help handle college costs.

Part-time job employment is down considerably (12%) compared with student reports of two years ago, when 17% reported they were working part-time.

Pell grants were the second leading source of financial help for today's community college student, with one-fifth (21%) reporting they are getting that type of financial aid. Full-time students are receiving more Pell grants (30%) than are part-time students (12%).

Help from family, spouse, relatives or friends is the third major source of financial assistance for community college, reported by nearly one-fifth (19%) of students, down significantly from two years ago. More full-time (29%) than part-time students (10%) get financial help from their family and this is reported as the major source of income (49%) by younger students, age 18 and 19.

Married students rely primarily (41%) on a full-time job while single students get more help (31%) from their family.

"How are you handling the costs of college? That is, are you receiving any form of financial assistance?"

	('88 State)*	All Resp.*	Part Time*	Full Time*	Urb.*	Sub.*	Reg.*
Full-time job	(27%)	31%	51%	12%	30%	36%	29%
Pell Grant	(21)	21	12	30	22	13	28
Help from parents, relatives, friends	(25)	19	10	29	19	23	15
Part-time job	(17)	12	9	15	11	12	13
Savings	(13)	4	5	3	3	5	3
Spouse	(5)	4	4	3	3	4	4
State scholarship	(6)	4	1	6	2	3	6
Other loan	(3)	3	2	4	3	3	3
Other college grant	(3)	3	2	3	2	3	3
Guaranteed Student Loan	(4)	2	2	3	2	2	3
Supp. Educ. Opportunity Grant	(3)	2	1	2	2	2	2
GI benefits	(2)	1	1	2	1	2	1
College work-study	(1)	1	1	1	1	-	2
None -- self-employed	(5)	1	-	2	1	2	1
Other government aid (ROTC, etc.)	(2)	1	-	1	-	1	1
Private grant	(2)	-	1	-	1	1	-
National Direct Student Loan	(1)	-	-	1	-	1	1
Miscellaneous other	(9)	14	19	10	17	13	14
Declined to respond	(2)	2	3	1	3	2	2

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

Assistance, financially, from employers is shown in the Table below:

"Is your employer providing you with any form of financial assistance?"

	All Resp.	Part Time	Full Time	Urb.	Sub.	Reg.
Yes	20%	33%	8%	21%	22%	19%
No	78	65	92	79	77	79
Can't say	1	2	1	1	1	2

SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Almost all students (93%), if they had it to do all over again, would still enroll in a community college. Almost nine out of ten students (88%) said they would definitely do that while another 5% said they probably would enroll in a community college.

Only 6% said they would not enroll in a community college if they had it to do all over again.

"Tell me, before we finish, if you had to do it all over again, would you enroll in a community college?"

	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Yes, definitely	88%	89%	86%	88%	86%	90%
Yes, possibly	5	4	6	5	5	5
No	6	5	6	5	7	5
Can't say/depends	2	2	2	2	3	1

"(IF "NO") May I ask why not?"

	<u>6% of All</u>	<u>5% of Part Resp.*</u>	<u>6% of Full</u>	<u>5% of Time*</u>	<u>7% of Time*</u>	<u>5% of Sub.*</u>	<u>Reg.*</u>
Get done quicker at a 4-yr.	55%	60%	51%	33%	78%	47%	
Not what I expected/don't like it/not happy	25	17	32	29	15	37	
Miscellaneous reasons	18	13	22	33	4	21	
Can't say	6	10	3	5	7	5	

*(Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.)

That testimonial was exceeded only by responses to the follow-up question, "Would you recommend a community college to a friend?"

Here, 95% said they certainly would, and there was no difference in this attitude between part-time or full-time students.

"Would you recommend a community college to a friend?"

	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Yes	95%	95%	95%	94%	94%	96%
No	1	1	1	2	1	2
Depends	4	4	4	5	5	2
Can't say	-	1	-	-	1	-

COMPOSITION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE

(95% Confidence Level)

s = 1,200

TYPE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Urban	33%
Suburban	33
Regional	33

TYPE OF STUDENT

Full-time	50%
Part-time	50

SEX OF RESPONDENTS

	<u>All</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Female	56%	54%	55%	60%
Male	44	47	45	41

LENGTH OF ATTENDANCE

	<u>All</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Part Time</u>
First term	16%	15%	16%
One year	32	39	26
Two years	24	28	20
More than two years	25	17	33
Returned after an absence	3	1	5

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	<u>All Resp.</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Part Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Full-time	47%	28%	65%	45%	51%	44%
Part-time	32	44	20	34	31	31
Not employed	21	28	14	22	18	25

COMPOSITION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE (Continued)

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

	<u>All</u> <u>Resp.</u>	<u>Full</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Part</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
18-19 years old	13%	21%	5%	14%	15%	11%
20-24 years old	36	45	27	37	39	32
25-34 years old	25	18	32	24	24	28
35-44 years old	16	10	23	16	15	19
45-54 years old	6	4	9	6	5	8
55-64 years old	2	1	3	2	2	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	1
Declined	1	1	2	1	1	1

MARITAL STATUS

	<u>All</u> <u>Resp.</u>	<u>Full</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Part</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Single	59%	74%	43%	62%	64%	50%
Married	32	18	46	28	30	37
Divorced	8	6	10	9	6	10
Separated	1	2	1	1	-	3
Widowed	-	-	-	-	-	-

SINGLE PARENT, WITH CHILDREN AT HOME

	<u>All</u> <u>Resp.</u>	<u>Full</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Part</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Yes	10%	12%	9%	11%	7%	13%
No	58	70	45	61	63	49
Declined	-	1	-	-	-	-

RACE OF RESPONDENTS

	<u>All</u> <u>Resp.</u>	<u>Full</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Part</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Black	7%	7%	7%	14%	5%	3%
Hispanic	2	2	3	3	2	2
White	87	87	87	78	90	93
Other	3	4	2	4	3	2
Declined to respond	1	-	1	1	1	1

COMPOSITION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE (Continued)

FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

	<u>All</u> <u>Resp.</u>	<u>Full</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Part</u> <u>Time</u>	<u>Urb.</u>	<u>Sub.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>
Yes	32%	33%	32%	32%	28%	27%
No	68	67	68	69	72	63



Project Outreach

of the Michigan State Board of Education

Michigan Department of Education

P.O. Box 30008

Lansing, MI 48909

(313) 373-4631

PROJECT OUTREACH
Community College
Non-Returning
Student Survey
June 1990

INTERVIEWER: _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW: _____

Interview # _____

Time interview began: _____

1. Type of College:
Urban. 01
Suburban. 02
Regional. 03
2. Type of Student:
Full-time. 01
Part-time. 02
3. Sex of respondent:
Female. 01
Male. 02

OPENING BY INTERVIEWER

Hello, this is _____. I'm an interviewer for Project Outreach of the State Board of Education. We're doing a statewide opinion survey of former community college students to collect their opinions about their college experiences. Your name was randomly selected by computer to be included in this survey. Your opinions will be kept strictly confidential; no personal identification is being recorded. My questions will take about 15 minutes or so ... depending on you. Is this a convenient time for you? (IF NOT A CONVENIENT TIME, MAKE A CALL-BACK APPOINTMENT.)

4. First of all, how long had you attended your community college?

Was in my first term. 01
One year. 02
Two years. 03
More than 2 years. 04
Returned after an absence. 05
Transferred here. 06

5. Did you first apply to a 4-year college?

Yes (GO TO #6). 01
No (SKIP TO #7). 02
Can't say (SKIP TO #7). 03

6. (IF "YES" ON #5) Why did you select a community college (instead)?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Closer to home. 01
Cheaper/less costly. 02
Have a better program. 03
Close to my job. 04
More personalized. 05
Friend/relative goes there. 06
Need to improve my grades. 07
Other(SPECIFY) _____ 08
Can't say. 09

↓
7. (IF "NO" ON #5) Why did you choose a community college?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Closer to home	01
To help me mature.	02
To help me be more independent	03
It's more personal	04
Cheaper/less costly.	05
Close to my job.	06
To get ready for a 4-year school	07
Other (SPECIFY)	
_____	08
Can't say.	09

8. What's your purpose -- that is, your primary educational goal in attending this college?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Improvement of existing job skills	01
Preparation for a job I hope to get.	02
University transfer credit	03
Personal interest.	04
Other (SPECIFY)	
_____	05
Can't say.	06

9. How do you expect to accomplish this goal? What type of requirements are involved?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Selected course(s) only.	01
Certificate -- less than 1 year.	02
Certificate -- one year.	03
Certificate -- two year.	04
Associate Degree	05
Complete Apprenticeship requirements	06
University/college transfer.	07
Other (SPECIFY)	
_____	08
Can't say.	09

10. In what type of program are you enrolled?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Allied Health/Nursing.	01
Business	02
Corrections.	03
Education.	04
English.	05
Humanities	06
Law Enforcement.	07
Mathematics.	08
Paralegal.	09
Political Science.	10
Science.	11
Social Science	12
Technical/Skilled Trades	13
Other (SPECIFY)	
	14
Undecided.	15
Can't say.	16

11. How long do you think it will take for you to accomplish your goal? (CIRCLE ONE)

One more year.	01
Probably two years	02
Over 2 to 3 years.	03
3 to 5 years	04
More than 5 years.	05
Whatever it takes.	06
Depends.	07
Can't say.	08

12. If you are pursuing a formal program of study (like a Certificate, Associate Degree, or Apprenticeship), what portion of it do you expect to have completed by the end of this Spring term? All, more than half, about half, or less than half? (CIRCLE ONE)

All.	01
More than half	02
About half	03
Less than half	04
Can't say.	05

13. Do you plan to enroll at this same college in the future? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, next/fall term.	01
Yes, at a later date	02
No	03
Undecided.	04



When you were considering attending a community college, how important were these kinds of things ... very important, somewhat important, or not too important:

		<u>Very Imp.</u>	<u>Somewhat Imp.</u>	<u>Not Too Imp.</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
14.	Academic reputation of the college	01	02	03	04
15.	Reputation of the faculty	01	02	03	04
16.	Availability of a particular program of study	01	02	03	04
17.	Variety of courses offered	01	02	03	04
18.	Location of the college	01	02	03	04
19.	Size of the college	01	02	03	04
20.	Opportunity for student leadership	01	02	03	04
21.	Entrance requirements for the college	01	02	03	04
22.	Cost of attending the college	01	02	03	04
23.	Type of community in which the college is located	01	02	03	04
24.	Availability of financial aid or scholarship	01	02	03	04
25.	Opportunity for part-time or full-time work	01	02	03	04
26.	Student completion rate	01	02	03	04
27.	Graduate job placement rate	01	02	03	04



Let me ask you about some other things that may be important to a person selecting a college. How important are these kinds of things ... very important, somewhat important, not too important:

		<u>Very Imp.</u>	<u>Somewhat Imp.</u>	<u>Not Too Imp.</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
28.	Competitive sports opportunities (Varsity athletics)	01	02	03	04
29.	Social climate and activities at the college	01	02	03	04
30.	Health and wellness programs	01	02	03	04
31.	Racial/ethnic makeup of the college	01	02	03	04
32.	Male/female ratio of student body	01	02	03	04
33.	Type of housing available; if any	01	02	03	04
34.	Facilities available (labs, class- rooms, recreation, etc.)	01	02	03	04
35.	Extracurricular activities (drama, athletics, music, etc.)	01	02	03	04
36.	Friends attend (or plan to attend) college	01	02	03	04
37.	Advice of parents or relatives	01	02	03	04
38.	Advice of high school counselors or teachers	01	02	03	04
39.	Advice of someone who attended college	01	02	03	04
40.	Contact(s) with college representatives	01	02	03	04

41. Was there any other important factor that influenced you in selecting the community college you now attend? If so, what was that?

42. Do you plan to transfer to a 4-year college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
No 02
Don't know/undecided 03

43. How important is getting an Associate degree from the community college? Is that very important, somewhat important, or not too important? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very important 01
Somewhat important 02
Not too important. 03
Can't say. 04

44. (IF "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT") What is so important about an Associate degree?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

It's easier; does not take as long as a
4-year degree. 01
It shows you have a goal 02
Shows you can complete a goal. 03
Important if you cannot go for a 4-year degree . . 04
Other (SPECIFY) 05
Can't say. 06

45. Do you plan to complete the requirements for an Associate degree from the community college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
No 02
Can't say/undecided. 03

46. Do you plan on getting a 4-year Bachelor's degree? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, definitely. 01
Yes, hopefully 02
No 03
Can't say/undecided. 04

47. Do you think you will go on and get a Master's or professional degree? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, definitely. 01
Yes, hopefully 02
No 03
Can't say/undecided. 04

48. Nowadays, many community college students attach a great deal of importance toward having a high grade point average, or GPA. What is so important about the GPA?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Need high GPA to transfer to a 4-year college. . . 01
Need it to be eligible for financial aid,
scholarship. 02
Employers look for that/to get a job 03
It is a personal goal, desire. 04
Some programs require high GPA to be able to
continue 05
To get recognition 06
Other (SPECIFY) 07

Can't say. 08

49. Some community college students say a community college is not like a real college -- it's just an extension of the high school. Would you agree or disagree with that? (CIRCLE ONE)

Agree. 01
Disagree 02
Can't say. 03

50. Community colleges serve students of different ages - from those in their late 'teens to older adults. How comfortable do you feel being in classes with people who are either a lot older or a lot younger than you? Would you say you are very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, somewhat uncomfortable, or very uncomfortable about that? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very comfortable 01
Somewhat comfortable 02
Somewhat uncomfortable 03
Very uncomfortable 04
Other (SPECIFY): 05

Can't say. 06

51. Are you doing better, academically, in community college than when you were in high school? (CIRCLE ONE)

Better now 01
About the same 02
Not as good. 03
Can't say. 04

52. Since you have been in a community college, do you consider your grades to be approximately an: (CIRCLE ONE)

A average. 01
B average. 02
C average. 03
Below C. 04
Can't say. 05

53. Let's change the subject. How reasonable is the cost of tuition at the community college you attend? Is it very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or unreasonable? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very reasonable. 01
Somewhat reasonable. 02
Unreasonable 03
Can't say. 04

54. Do you think you are getting your money's worth? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
No 02
Can't say. 03

55. Based on what you know, how much of the cost of being enrolled in college is covered by tuition? (CIRCLE ONE)

All of it. 01
Most of it 02
About one-half of it 03
Less than one-half 04
Other (SPECIFY) 05
Can't say. 06

56. Some colleges promise a "guarantee" to students. These include such things as a guarantee that community college courses will transfer to any 4-year college, or a guarantee that the community college graduate will be properly trained for a job. How important is such a guarantee to you -- very important, somewhat important, or not too important? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very important 01
Somewhat important 02
Not too important. 03
Can't say. 04

 Let me ask you about the different fees that are charged by some community colleges. How reasonable are each of these -- very reasonable, somewhat reasonable, or unreasonable?

	Very Reason.	Somewhat Reason.	Un- Reason.	Not Applicable
57. Registration fee	01	02	03	04
58. Lab fees	01	02	03	04
59. Activity fee	01	02	03	04
60. Physical education fee	01	02	03	04
61. Any other fees? (SPECIFY)	01	02	03	04



Community colleges offer a wide range of services to students. Let me read you some of those. As I name each one, tell me how you would rate that service at your community college...excellent, good, fair, or poor.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>N/A Can't Say</u>
62. New student orientation	01	02	03	04	05
63. Course selection advisement	01	02	03	04	05
64. Tutorial help	01	02	03	04	05
65. Financial aid assistance	01	02	03	04	05
66. Job placement services	01	02	03	04	05
67. Library services	01	02	03	04	05
68. Child care provisions	01	02	03	04	05
69. Student activities	01	02	03	04	05
70. Computer labs, facilities	01	02	03	04	05
71. Reading labs	01	02	03	04	05
72. Typing rooms	01	02	03	04	05
73. Study rooms, areas	01	02	03	04	05
74. Parking availability	01	02	03	04	05
75. Handicapped access	01	02	03	04	05
76. Bookstore	01	02	03	04	05
77. Food service	01	02	03	04	05
78. Safety on campus	01	02	03	04	05



Now let me read you a handful of statements about your community college. Tell me, when it comes to your college, whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each one.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
79. The college has high-quality academic programs	01	02	03	04	05
80. The college has a high-quality program in the subject area you plan to pursue	01	02	03	04	05
81. There are a large number and variety of courses and programs offered at the college	01	02	03	04	05
82. Your college has too many required courses	01	02	03	04	05
83. Your college has an "open door" policy -- it admits any student regardless of their academic record	01	02	03	04	05
84. Your college provides educational opportunities for all students regardless of their academic record	01	02	03	04	05

85. Let me ask you a different question. What is so important, anyway, about a college education? (PROBE:) Any other reason?

➤ Let's talk about the faculty at your community college. First, when it comes to full-time faculty, how would you rate them on each of these....

<u>FULL-TIME FACULTY:</u>		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
86.	The manner in which they present their subject material	01	02	03	04	05
87.	The interest they take in individual students	01	02	03	04	05
88.	Their willingness to meet with students when needed	01	02	03	04	05

➤ Now, how about part-time faculty members...how would you rate them?

<u>PART-TIME FACULTY</u>		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
89.	The manner in which they present their subject material	01	02	03	04	05
90.	The interest they take in individual students	01	02	03	04	05
91.	Their willingness to meet with students when needed	01	02	03	04	05
92.	How can you tell whether a faculty member is full-time or part-time? (PROBE:) Any other way?					

93. When you feel you need help from a faculty member, how easy is it to get that help -- very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very easy. 01
 Somewhat easy. 02
 Somewhat difficult 03
 Very difficult 04
 Can't say/have not needed. 05

94. How would you rate the level of instruction at your community college? Is it more difficult than you expected, less difficult than you expected, or about what you had expected? (CIRCLE ONE)

More difficult 01
 Less difficult 02
 About what I expected. 03
 Can't say. 04

95. Do you think your college should have a policy to test all students in math, reading and writing skill levels before admitting those students into college courses? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
 No 02
 Undecided/can't say. 03

96. How important is an active student government organization on your campus? Is that very important, somewhat important, or not too important? (CIRCLE ONE)

Very important 01
 Somewhat important 02
 Not too important. 03
 Can't say. 04

 Tell me whether you agree or disagree with these statements. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that....

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Can't</u> <u>Say</u>
97. Your college has many activities and organizations for students	01	02	03	04	05
98. Your college offers many cultural events and programs	01	02	03	04	05
99. Students at your college are friendly	01	02	03	04	05
100. Many students at your college use drugs and/or alcohol	01	02	03	04	05
101. There are many students at your college who hold extreme political views	01	02	03	04	05
102. Students from various racial and ethnic backgrounds get along well with other students	01	02	03	04	05
103. Your college has very clear policies to prevent racism and/or sexism	01	02	03	04	05
104. Your college has made adequate provisions for handicapper accessibility	01	02	03	04	05
105. Your college should have a smoke-free environment	01	02	03	04	05

FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS ONLY

Let me ask you a series of questions that pertain to part-time night school students. How would you rate each of these? Excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
106. The availability of a variety of course offerings at night	01	02	03	04	05
107. The availability of counseling and guidance services at night	01	02	03	04	05
108. Accessibility to computer lab at night	01	02	03	04	05
109. Availability of library services at night	01	02	03	04	05
110. Availability of tutoring services at night	01	02	03	04	05

ASK OF ALL RESPONDENTS

111. Are you now receiving or will you have to apply for financial aid to continue in college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
 No 02
 Can't say. 03

112. How are you handling the costs of college? That is, are you receiving any form of financial assistance? (PROBE:) Any others?

(DO NOT READ LIST BUT MARK ANY ANSWERS THAT RESPONDENT GIVES)

Help from parents, relatives, friends. 01
 Spouse 02
 Savings. 03
 Part-time job. 04
 Full-time job. 05
 Pell Grant 06
 Supp. Educ. Opportunity Grant. 07
 State scholarship. 08
 College work-study 09
 Other college grant. 10
 Private grant. 11
 GI benefits. 12
 Other government aid (ROTC, etc.). 13
 Guaranteed Student Loan. 14
 National Direct Student Loan 15
 Other loan 16
 Miscellaneous other source 17
 Declined to respond. 18

113. Is your employer providing you with any form of financial assistance? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
 No 02
 Can't say. 03

114. Tell me, before we finish, if you had to do it all over again, would you enroll in a community college? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes, definitely. 01
 Yes, possibly. 02
 No 03
 Can't say/depends. 04

↓
 *115. (IF "NO" ON #114) May I ask why not?

116. Would you recommend a community college to a friend? (CIRCLE ONE)

Yes. 01
 No 02
 Depends. 03
 Can't say. 04

↓
 117. (IF "NO" ON #116) Why not?

THESE LAST QUICK QUESTIONS ARE JUST TO HELP US CLASSIFY
 THE OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE WE ARE TALKING TO

118. Are you attending classes on the main campus of your college or in an extension location?

Main campus. 01
 Extension site 02
 Both 03
 Can't say. 04

119. Are you the first from your family to attend college?

Yes. 01
 No 02
 Can't say. 03

120. Are you employed either full-time or part-time?

Full-time. 01
 Part-time. 02
 Not employed 03
 Can't say. 04

121. Would you mind telling me the year in which you were born?

1925 and prior (65 and over)	01
1926 through 1935 (55 thru 64)	02
1936 through 1945 (45 thru 54)	03
1946 through 1955 (35 thru 44)	04
1956 through 1965 (25 thru 34)	05
1966 through 1970 (20 thru 24)	06
1971 through 1972 (18 and 19)	07
Declined to respond.	08

122. Are you single, married, divorced or separated?

↓	Single	01
	Married.	02
	Divorced	03
	Separated.	04
	Widowed.	05
	Declined to respond.	06

123. (IF "SINGLE", "SEPARATED", OR "DIVORCED") Are you a parent with children at home?

Yes.	01
No	02
Declined to respond.	03

124. And, would you mind telling me -- are you black, Hispanic, white or of some other ethnic group? (CIRCLE ONE)

Black.	01
Hispanic	02
White.	03
Other.	04
Declined to respond.	05

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE ME YOUR OPINIONS

INTERVIEWER: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Time interview ended: _____